

Congressman Secured More Than \$1 Million in Federal Funding for Project

▣ **Kingston, NY** - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) joined Kingston Mayor James Sottile, State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash, and other state and city officials today for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rondout Waterfront Promenade. Hinchey secured more than \$1 million in federal funding for the project, allowing for the enhancement of Kingston's waterfront walkway by constructing a landscaped trail along the Rondout waterfront. "It took a lot of hard work to get us to where we are today, and now the people of Kingston will enjoy this beautiful walkway for years to come," Hinchey said. "I'm pleased that I was able to secure a significant level of federal funding that spared local taxpayers much of the expense associated with this worthwhile project. This project is helping to create jobs while transforming the city in a way that enhances the quality of life for everyone who lives and works here." The now completed waterfront promenade provides public access to and along the waterfront and connects with the walkway already in place. The trail provides new waterfront recreational opportunities, with greater access to the Rondout and the waterfront commercial district. It links the proposed developments along the waterfront and serves as a destination for residents and tourists. Funds were also used for streetscaping, including trees, lighting, benches, and other amenities. Kingston Mayor James Sottile said, "I have always said our plan for the waterfront is like a puzzle, with the Promenade being a major piece. My sincere thanks to Congressman Hinchey for his unwavering commitment to this community, its residents and businesses; and for his assistance in furthering the redevelopment of our waterfront. Thanks also to everyone at the NYS Department of State, NYS Department of Transportation and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. I am very proud of the staff, Lochner Engineering, the contractors A. Colarusso and Son and McCarey Landscaping, and all the supporters for their hard work on the walkway. Our community should be proud of the successful completion of this terrific project." New York Secretary of State Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez said: "The New York State Department of State and the City of Kingston have worked closely together to revitalize the Rondout Creek waterfront. Through funding from the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for this exciting walkway project, we are pleased to continue this strong partnership. I wish to commend the City on its steadfast dedication in increasing public access for residents and visitors to this thriving historic riverfront." Hinchey secured \$1.04 million in federal funds for the Rondout walkway from Congress as part of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) measure. Additionally, \$200,000 from the federal economic recovery bill, which Hinchey actively supported and helped pass in 2009, was designated for the development of the walkway. In addition to the funding Hinchey secured, the New York State Department of State (DOS) provided \$350,000 and the New York State Parks Department provided \$190,000.